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*Mexico
Narcotics*

MEXICO

PCR REPORTS CONTINUED DRUG CONFISCATIONS IN VARIOUS STATES

Mexicali LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA in Spanish 18 Nov 84 Sec A p 13

[Text] Mexico City, D.F., 17 Nov (INFORMEX)--Marijuana with a black market value of over 40 million pesos was confiscated by the Mexican Army from the drug traffickers Abel Padilla Silva and Juan Corrales Aguilera in an operation carried out in the state of Colima.

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic made the foregoing announcement, adding that, in the operation, an R-15 and a 9-millimeter caliber Browning pistol were seized.

The grass was concealed in 998 cardboard boxes in a 1984 Ford truck.

Abel Padilla Silva said that, while seeking employment, he met an individual named Manuel Canchola, whom he helped to solve a mechanical problem that he had with his car.

Later, Canchola offered Padilla Silva the use of his vehicle to transport livestock, and the latter accepted.

Padilla Silva added that, when he realized that marijuana was involved, he at first refused to perform the work, but since he was offered 150,000 pesos to haul the drugs, of which sum they gave him 70,000 in advance, he agreed to take the assignment.

Juan Corrales Aguilera, for his part, claimed in his statement that they had assigned him to accompany Padilla Silva and make sure that he delivered the drugs to their destination, but that they were stopped by Army personnel at kilometer 30 of highway number 200 on the section between Tecoman and Puente del Rio.

The accused were placed at the disposal of members of the pertinent public ministry.

Mexico City, D.F., 17 Nov (EXCELSIOR)--Today, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic admitted that the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, as claimed by

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Bishop Arturo Lona Reyes, is a "troubled" area from the standpoint of drug trafficking, primarily the planting and cultivation of marijuana, and evidence of this is the fact that, yesterday, they shot down a helicopter of the police from the Attorney General's Office in the Oaxaca mountains.

At the same time, the aforementioned department confirmed the fact that all the reports submitted on any type of drug trafficking would be dealt with immediately, and that the urging and appeal for reports on this type of crime are still in effect.

The statement from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic was due to a charge made by the bishop of Tehuantepec, Arturo Lona Reyes, yesterday, to the effect that the growing of poppies and marijuana in the Isthmus region is more intense than in the state of Chihuahua itself, but that, unfortunately, the authorities refuse to realize this problem.

At the same time, forces from the Federal Judicial Police detailed to the state of Oaxaca, including group chief Juan Benitez Ayala, when interviewed by telephone, admitted that the aforementioned area is extremely troubled insofar as drug trafficking is concerned, but noted that, this past year, "we have achieved what was impossible to achieve during the 2 previous years."

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